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Amendment Response
Serial No. 10/003,062

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12. (Cancelled)
13. (Cancelled)
14. (Original) The television unit as claimed in Claim 12 wherein said bitrate transcoder unit comprises an output component that is capable of generating empty data packets and adding said empty data packets to the output of said bitrate transcoder unit.

15. (Original) The television unit as claimed in Claim 14 further comprising a clock control circuit in an output component of a last bitrate transcoder unit that is located at an output end of said processing chain, wherein said clock control circuit is capable of adjusting a clock rate of an output of said last bitrate transcoder unit in said processing chain.

16. (Original) The television unit as claimed in Claim 9 wherein said processing chain further comprises:

an input block coupled to a first media processor in said processing chain, wherein said input block is capable of receiving multimedia data in real time from one of: a computer file, a bitpump, and a radio frequency front end; and

an output block coupled to a last media processor in said processing chain, wherein said output block is capable of outputting multimedia data in real time in one of: a computer file format, and a transport stream format.

17. (Currently amended) A method for processing a multimedia digital bitstream, wherein at least a portion of said multimedia digital bitstream is capable of being transcoded via at least one bitrate transcoder associated with one or more N media processors suitable for processing at least a portion of said multimedia digital bitstream, each bitrate transcoder including at least one of a split unit, a BRT transcoder, and a merge unit, said method comprising the steps of:

processing a portion of said multimedia digital bitstream in each of a plurality of said N media processors of a processing chain, wherein said portion represents a $(1/N)^{th}$ interleaved portion of the bitstream, each of said plurality of media processors executing the steps of:

splitting an associated portion of said multimedia digital bitstream into a